



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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Arrival of new U.S. Chargé d’Affaires to Sudan

- The new U.S. Chargé D’Affaires to Sudan, Alberto Fernandez, has assumed his duties in Khartoum yesterday. In his arrival statement to the press, Fernandez asserted that he is “looking forward to a professional diplomatic relationship with the Government of National Unity, and with a wide range of Sudanese civil society, on serious and urgent matters of mutual interest between the U.S. and Sudan.” Fernandez also expressed interest in seeing progress being made on the fulfillment of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. (*Al-Sahafa, Khartoum Monitor, Sudan Vision, Al-Khartoum, Al-Sudani, Akhbar Al-Youm, Akhir Lahza, Al-Wihda, Alwatan, Al-Intibaha*)

Parliament rejects U.S. sanctions on Sudan

- The Sudanese National Assembly (parliament) issued a resolution yesterday rejecting the recent U.S. decision to expand economic sanctions against Sudan. The resolution was ratified by 248 legislators, and rejected by 13 members. The Sudanese parliament noted in the resolution that the U.S. sanctions would obstruct efforts to realize peace in Sudan’s Darfur region, adding that the sanctions would also harm the humanitarian situation in southern Sudan, Darfur, and other regions. The National Assembly also decided to notify the UN Security Council, the UN General Assembly, the African Union, as well as other international and regional organizations of the danger and effects of the sanctions on the Sudanese government's efforts to achieve peace. The parliament also reiterated its support for Sudanese diplomatic efforts “aimed at thwarting the attempt by the U.S., backed by Britain, to seek a UN Security Council resolution on international sanctions against Sudan.” The National Assembly further urged the Sudanese government to fully

implement the peace agreement in Darfur, and protect Sudan and Sudanese interests from the impact of the American sanctions. (*Alwan, Rai Al-Shaab*)

U.S. might consider a no-fly zone over Darfur

- On the margins of the G-8 Summit, President Bush stated yesterday that the U.S. might support the imposition of a no-fly zone over Darfur to help end the ongoing conflict in the region. (*Al-Sudani*)

French “humanitarian corridor” idea withdrawn

- French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner appeared to have withdrawn his support for a proposal for a "humanitarian corridor" to Darfur, but insisted France was working out a plan to help the troubled Sudanese region. "A humanitarian corridor is a good concept when it can be adapted. The initial idea was for an aerial corridor, but it is not at all certain that we can do it," he said. Meanwhile, the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ali Al-Saddig, announced yesterday Sudan’s rejection of such a humanitarian corridor for Darfur, arguing that Chad and a number of French NGOs have rejected it. Al-Saddig added that Kouchner was acting as though he were still a member of an international NGO. (*Al-Wihda*)

Quote of the Day

“Sudan will do all it can to improve relations between the two countries. The new U.S. Chargé has a huge job which involves improving relations between the U.S. and Sudan and convincing his administration of the reality in Sudan.” – MFA spokesman Al-Saddig

The Sudan Morning News is compiled as a service by the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Khartoum, Sudan. It presents a partial survey of the current Sudanese press and international reporting about Sudan. Material reported here does not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government.